IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 1 by inserting the following heading between the title of the invention and the first paragraph:

"FIELD OF THE INVENTION"

Please amend page 1 by inserting the following heading between the first and second paragraphs:

"BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION"

Please amend page 1 by inserting the following heading on line 23:

"SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION"

Please amend page 3 by inserting the following heading on line 29:

"BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS"

Please amend page 4 by inserting the following heading on line 2:

"DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION"

Please amend page 7 by inserting the following language between the "CLAIMS" heading and claim 1:

"I/We claim:"

Please amend pages 1-2 by deleting the text on page 1 lines 28-32 and page 2 lines 1-18 as follows:

~~"By introducing a continuous ignition source into the pump, a reaction between any fuel/oxidant mixtures within the pumped fluid, which, within the pump, will be at a relatively low fluid pressure, can be deliberately initiated. By deliberately initiating the reaction at a controlled location, it can be ensured that the pressure rise generated by such reactions (usually around ten times the start pressure) will be less~~

~~than atmospheric pressure, so that the reactions can be confined within the pump and thereby pose little or no hazard.~~

~~Regulating the concentration of fuel in the fluid exhaust from the pump to below its lower explosion limit (LEL) can minimise the likelihood of a flammable atmosphere being created downstream from the pump outlet by, for example, a leak in the exhaust line from the pump. To achieve this, the reactions initiated within the pump need not be complete prior to the exhaust of the fuel from the pump. Furthermore, deliberately reacting the fluid to maintain the fuel concentration below its LEL can minimise the amount of purge fluid, such as nitrogen, which would otherwise be required to reduce the fuel concentration below its LEL, thereby saving costs.~~

~~The continuous ignition source may be provided in any convenient form, for example, by an electric discharge device, spark plug, heated filament, glow discharge or other plasma source.~~"

Please amend pages 2-3 by deleting the text on page 2 lines 26-31 and page 3 lines 1-20 as follows:

"~~The pump preferably comprises a plurality of continuous ignition sources each located between respective adjacent stages of the pump. By introducing into the pump continuous ignition sources at respective locations between which the fluid pressure varies from, say, 50mbar to 950mbar, any fuel/oxidant mixtures within the pumped fluid will react over a range of pressures existing within the pump. Spreading the reaction over a range of pressures can ensure that the pressure rise generated within the pump by fuel ignition will be less than atmospheric pressure.~~

~~In view of the reactions deliberately initiated within the pump, it may be necessary to increase the amount of coolant supplied to the pump. In one preferred embodiment the continuous ignition source is provided within a combustion chamber located between stages of the pump. Confining at least part of the reaction to within a combustion chamber can facilitate the provision of additional cooling to the pump.~~

~~The pump may be provided with means for injecting into the pump a fluid stream comprising an oxidant, for example, air, clean dry air (CDA) or oxygen, for assisting in igniting the fuel. This fluid stream may also, or alternatively, comprise a fuel for increasing the likelihood of ignition occurring within the pump. Deliberate introduction of an oxidant and/or fuel into the pump can increase the likelihood of fuel combustion within the pump. This fluid stream can be conveniently injected into the pump between adjacent stages of the pump, for example, through a port provided for the injection into the pump of a purge gas such as nitrogen. Where a combustion chamber is provided within the pump, the fluid stream is preferably injected directly into this chamber.~~"

Please amend page 4 by inserting the following text before line 3 after Detailed Description of the Invention as follows:

"By introducing a continuous ignition source into the pump, a reaction between any fuel/oxidant mixtures within the pumped fluid, which, within the pump, will be at a relatively low fluid pressure, can be deliberately initiated. By deliberately initiating the reaction at a controlled location, it can be ensured that the pressure rise generated by such reactions (usually around ten times the start pressure) will be less than atmospheric pressure, so that the reactions can be confined within the pump and thereby pose little or no hazard.

Regulating the concentration of fuel in the fluid exhaust from the pump to below its lower explosion limit (LEL) can minimise the likelihood of a flammable atmosphere being created downstream from the pump outlet by, for example, a leak in the exhaust line from the pump. To achieve this, the reactions initiated within the pump need not be complete prior to the exhaust of the fuel from the pump. Furthermore, deliberately reacting the fluid to maintain the fuel concentration below its LEL can minimise the amount of purge fluid, such as nitrogen, which would otherwise be required to reduce the fuel concentration below its LEL, thereby saving costs.

The continuous ignition source may be provided in any convenient form, for example, by an electric discharge device, spark plug, heated filament, glow discharge or other plasma source.

The pump preferably comprises a plurality of continuous ignition sources each located between respective adjacent stages of the pump. By introducing into the pump continuous ignition sources at respective locations between which the fluid pressure varies from, say, 50mbar to 950mbar, any fuel/oxidant mixtures within the pumped fluid will react over a range of pressures existing within the pump. Spreading the reaction over a range of pressures can ensure that the pressure rise generated within the pump by fuel ignition will be less than atmospheric pressure.

In view of the reactions deliberately initiated within the pump, it may be necessary to increase the amount of coolant supplied to the pump. In one preferred embodiment the continuous ignition source is provided within a combustion chamber located between stages of the pump. Confining at least part of the reaction to within a combustion chamber can facilitate the provision of additional cooling to the pump.

The pump may be provided with means for injecting into the pump a fluid stream comprising an oxidant, for example, air, clean dry air (CDA) or oxygen, for assisting in igniting the fuel. This fluid stream may also, or alternatively, comprise a fuel for increasing the likelihood of ignition occurring within the pump. Deliberate introduction of an oxidant and/or fuel into the pump can increase the likelihood of fuel combustion within the pump. This fluid stream can be conveniently injected into the pump between adjacent stages of the pump, for example, through a port provided for the injection into the pump of a purge gas such as nitrogen. Where a combustion chamber is provided within the pump, the fluid stream is preferably injected directly into this chamber."

Please amend page 6 by inserting the following paragraph beginning line 20 as follows:

"While the foregoing description and drawings represent the preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the true spirit and scope of the present invention."